

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 121446

R 251523Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8540

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NASSAU 1344

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF, US

SUBJ: FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

1. MR. JOHN DOUBLEDAY, ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER (MENNELL LEFT NASSAU IN EARLY JULY FOR AN EXTENDED VACATION) MENTIONED TO ME THE OTHER DAY, ALMOST IN PASSING, THAT HE HAD SOME INFORMATION WHICH MENNELLE HAD LEFT WITH HIM ON THE FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT IF I WISHED HE WOULD COME BY AND DEBRIEF ME.

2. DOUBLEDAY APPEARED THIS MORNING WITH THE FOLLOWING RATHER INCREDIBLE STORY. HE REPORTED THAT PRIOR TO GOING ON HOME LEAVE, MENNELLE HAD PAID COURTESY CALLS ON ADDERLEY, HANNA AND PINDLING DURING WHICH TIME THE FACILITIES AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED. (BY IMPLICATION, THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED BY MENNELLE.) ACCORDING TO DOUBLEDAY (WHO READ FROM NOTES PRESUMABLY MADE BY MENNELLE), ADDERLEY ANNOUNCED THAT THE GCOB "HAD DISPATCHED A COMMUNICATION TO THE USG" DURING THAT WEEK (I.E., THE WEEK OF JULY 5TH) WHICH ADDERLEY THOUGHT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FACILITATING A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE NEGOTIATION. ADDERLEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GCOB CONTINUED TO HAVE A REQUIREMENT FOR ONE-HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD WHICH IT WAS PREPARED TO TAKE IN THE FORM OF DEVELOPMENT LOANS. ADDERLEY ALSO STATED THAT WITH REGARD TO BAHAMIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE NEEDS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS HAD INDICATED TO PRIMIN PINDLING COMPLETE SYMPATHY FOR "MASSIVE" U.S. ASSISTANCE "BUT HAD BEEN OVERRIDDEN BY SECRETARY KISSINGER."

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ADDERLEY WAS HOPEFUL THAT "THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD SHARE

THE ROGERS' VIEWPOINT." ADDERLEY SAID THAT BASED ON THE GCOB COMMUNICATION OF THE WEEK OF JULY 5TH HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE END OF THE YEAR. (GIVEN THE OUTLANDISHNESS OF THESE STATEMENTS AND WHAT APPEARED TO BE INCONSISTENCIES, DCM PAID CALL ON DOUBLEDAY LATER IN THE DAY, WHO RECONFIRMED THEM BY READING VERBATIM FROM MENNELL'S DESPATCH.)

3. THE DISCUSSIONS WITH HANNA AND PINDLING ON THIS SUBJECT WERE MUCH MORE BRIEF AND NEITHER SERVED TO CONFIRM NOR DENY ADDERLEY'S ALLEGATION THAT THE GCOB HAD DISPATCHED A COMMUNICATION TO US. IN THE CONVERSATION WITH HANNA, LATTER MENTIONED HIS HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD BE FORTHCOMING ON THE ISSUE OF RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS. IN THE DISCUSSION WITH PINDLING, WHO INDICATED A GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH BASE RENTAL OFFER, MENNELL REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT THE USG MIGHT WELL HAVE DIFFICULTY PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE GCOB GIVEN THE BAHAMAS RELATIVELY AFFLUENT POSITION. PINDLING APPARENTLY WAS GENERALLY NONCOMMITTAL.

4. I TOLD DOUBLEDAY THAT HIS REPORT WAS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE, THAT THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION IN JULY OR INDEED AT ALL FROM THE GCOB IN RESPONSE TO OUR DECEMBER OFFER. I SAID THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WOULD HAVE INDICATED TO PINDLING SUPPORT FOR THEIR ECONOMIC AID REQUEST, NOT TO MENTION ALLEGEDLY REVEALING THAT HE IN TURN HAD BEEN OVERRULED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. I CONFIRMED THAT THE QUESTION OF RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS WAS AN ISSUE WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED BY THE GCOB AND REJECTED BY US AND I ALSO CONFIRMED THAT WE HAD HEARD FROM PINDLING AND OTHERS NOISES WHICH SEEMED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH HIS EXPRESSION OF GENERALIZED SATISFACTION WITH OUR DECEMBER BASE RENTAL OFFER. I SAID THAT ON THE TIMING, PINDLING HAD INDICATED TO ROGERS NO HURRY IN GETTING BACK TO THE NEGOTIATION, THAT LOS HAD PRIORITY AND THAT THEY MIGHT NOT GET BACK TO US BEFORE END OF THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. I COULD NOT IMAGINE THE BASIS FOR ADDERLEY'S STATEMENT AND WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER MENNELL HAD GOT IT STRAIGHT. (MENNELL, HOWEVER, IS AN EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT WHO WAS TOTALLY FAMILIAR WITH OUR OFFER TO THE GCOB AND WHO THEREFORE COULD HARDLY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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GARBLED ADDERLEY'S COMMENTS THAT BADLY UNLESS THE WISH WAS FATHER TO THE THOUGHT.)

5. DOUBLEDAY PROFESSED HIMSELF SHOCKED BY WHAT I TOLD HIM. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BOTHERED TO SEEK ME OUT SOONER SIMPLY BECAUSE HE AND MENNELL HAD ASSUMED THE BALL WAS IN OUR COURT BASED ON THE GCOB JULY COMMUNICATION AND WAS PRESUMABLY MOVING FORWARD IN WASHINGTON. I REITERATED THAT

I KNEW OF NO COMMUNICATION WHICH WASHINGTON HAD RECEIVED AND THAT CLEARLY NONE HAD COME FROM THE EMBASSY. I ALSO REMINDED DOUBLEDAY THAT I HAD BEEN KEEPING MENNELL CLOSELY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE ASSUMED THAT I WOULD HAVE ALERTED THEM TO ANY SUCH MAJOR DEVELOPMENT.

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. GAMBLE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NASSAU 1344
EXDIS

6. DOUBLEDAY WONDERED WHETHER ADDERLEY COULD HAVE BEEN INTENTIONALLY MISLEADING MENNELL IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPLY THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE SINCE THE GCOB WAS CONTINUING TO SEEK ACTIVE BRITISH ASSISTANCE IN LINING UP PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, ETC., FOR ITS NASCENT COAST GUARD. MY OWN REACTION WAS THAT ADDERLEY MUST CERTAINLY BE AWARE THAT THERE IS SOME DEGREE OF U.S./U.K. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IF NOT OUTRIGHT COORDINATION AND WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE LIKELY TO BE SO PALPABLY MISLEADING. FINALLY, WE ALSO SPECULATED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEHOW OR OTHER ADDERLEY HAD IN FACT BELIEVED THAT SUCH A COMMUNICATION WAS COMING TO US DURING THAT WEEK, BUT THAT HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN DERAILED BY A NONCONCURRENCE FROM PINDLING. EVEN HERE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHY ADDERLEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SO RELATIVELY INDISCREET AS TO DESCRIBE AN ACTION WHICH HAD NOT AT THAT POINT BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRIMIN.

7. ALL OF THE FOREGOING LEAVES US TOTALLY MYSTIFIED. ONE ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE EQUATION IS MENNELL'S ROLE. WHILE HOPEFULLY HE HAS BEEN PLAYING THE GAME SQUARELY AS A RESULT OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON, WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED OUR UNEASE AS TO HOW HE MIGHT BE DEPORTING HIMSELF

IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GCOB. WHETHER SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER THIS PARTICULAR TALE IS EXPLAINABLE IN THAT CONTEXT, I FRANKLY DO NOT KNOW. THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT THINK THIS INFORMATION WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO SEE ME BEFORE HE LEFT (WE DID TRY TO MESH SCHEDULES BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL) OR, FAILING THAT, INSTRUCT DOUBLEDAY TO CONTACT ME PROMPTLY, LEAVES US FEELING THAT SOMEHOW THE WHOLE STORY DOES NOT
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ENTIRELY HANG TOGETHER.

8. THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT DOUBLEDAY WILL ATTEMPT INFORMALLY TO CONFIRM WITH PERMSEC MINEXTAFF RUSSELL THAT COMMUNICATION WAS SENT TO USG BY QUERYING AS TO WHETHER ANY REPLY HAS AS YET BEEN RECEIVED (I.E. IMPLYING NO KNOWLEDGE OF TODAY'S DISCUSSION). DOUBLEDAY HAS PROMISED TO REPORT IF HE LEARNS ANYTHING, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL HAVE ANY CONVERSATIONS WITH RUSSELL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

9. FINALLY, DOUBLEDAY STATED THAT MENNEL HAD REPEATED CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON TO THE NAVY AND THOUGHT MATTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN PASSED TO EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION U.K. EMBASSY WASHINGTON WAS INFOED ON MENNEL'S CABLE. HAS DEPARTMENT HEARD ANYTHING FROM THIS SOURCE? CAN DEPARTMENT SHED ANY LIGHT WHATSOEVER ON THE ABOVE?
WEISS

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. GAMBLE.

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